

Department of the Army, DoD

§ 578.25c

who lost his or her life during any period indicated herein.

(4) Letter applications for Gold Star lapel buttons may be submitted to The Adjutant General or to the Commanding Officer, Army Records Center, 9700 Page Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri 63132, by eligible next of kin of deceased Army personnel enumerated in paragraphs (b) (2) and (3) of this section.

(5) Under the act, only one Gold Star lapel button will be furnished to eligible individuals, except that whenever a Gold Star lapel button has been lost, destroyed, or rendered unfit for use, without fault or neglect on the part of the person to whom it was furnished, such button may be replaced at cost price upon application to The Adjutant General. Private manufacture and/or sale of the Gold Star lapel button is prohibited. The design will not be incorporated in any manner in any article manufactured commercially or privately. The law prescribes a fine of \$1,000 and/or imprisonment for 2 years as a penalty for unauthorized wearing or counterfeiting of the Gold Star lapel button, or for possessing a counterfeit of this button.

§ 578.25a Certificate of Honorable Service and Record Service (Deceased Military Personnel).

(a) *Certificate of Honorable Service.* A Certificate of Honorable Service (DA Form 1563) is issued to the closest next of kin of record in recognition of services rendered by those who die in line of duty while in active military service in time of peace when the Accolade is not appropriate.

(1) The certificate reads as follows:

Honorable Service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America. This is to certify that _____ died while in the service of our country as a member of the Army of the United States on the _____ day of _____. This certificate is awarded as a testimonial of Honest and Faithful Service. (Signature) Secretary of the Army.

(2) Certificates of Honorable Service will be issued by The Adjutant General upon receipt of reports of death.

(b) *A Record of Service—Deceased Military Personnel (DA Form 53A).* Form 53A will be issued for all military personnel

who die while in the active military service or while taking inactive status training as reservists not on active duty, regardless of line of duty status. Commanding officer having custody of the individual's records at time of death will prepare the form in duplicate. The original will be forwarded to the closest next of kin of record of the deceased individual in the following order: Widow or widower, eldest son, eldest daughter, father, mother, eldest brother, eldest sister, eldest grandchild.

§ 578.25b Certificate of Achievement.

Commanding officers may recognize periods of faithful service, acts, or achievements which do not meet the standards required for decorations by issuing to individual United States military personnel and United States civilian citizens a Certificate of Achievement.

(a) The Certificate of Achievement may be devised locally by commanding officers and issued under such regulations as they may prescribe; may be printed or lithographed; and may bear reproductions of authorized insignia. A Certificate of Achievement may be used locally for awarding the Good Conduct Medal.

(b) No distinguishing device is authorized for wear to indicate the receipt of a Certificate of Achievement.

§ 578.25c Special Certificate of Achievement for Public and Community Relations.

(a) A Special Certificate of Achievement for issuance to information media, civic, fraternal, and other types of organizations and groups who have actively supported the Army in its public and community relations efforts, including the Reserve Forces Program, has been established. This special certificate is designed to give official Department of the Army recognition to civilian groups and organizations who have made an exceptional contribution to the development of public understanding of the Army, gaining for it greater public confidence and support. Consideration should be given to the award of this certificate as an expression of the appreciation of the Army